

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed March 31, 2010. A Petition for One Month Extension of Time and payment (by credit card authorization) of the requisite fees are enclosed. It is believed that no additional fees are necessary in connection with the present Amendment, inasmuch as May 31, 2010 fell on a federal holiday. However, in the event any fees are necessary, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

The Office action requires restriction to the invention of Group I, Claims 110-114, 122-125, 127, 130, 132-133, and 137-138, drawn to a cassette, or Group II, Claims 115-121, 126, 128-129, 131, and 134-136, drawn to a printer/printing device. The Applicant hereby elects to proceed with Group I, Claims 110-114, 122-125, 127, 130, 132-133, and 137-138. This election is respectfully made with traverse. While the claims of both Groups I and II are apparatus claims, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in Group II are claiming a product that corresponds to the product recited in Group I, namely a printer (e.g., Claim 115) that corresponds to a cassette (e.g., Claim 114). As such, it is believed that there would not be a serious burden on the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to consider both Groups of claims in a single application. See, e.g., MPEP § 803 ("If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.")

Although the Office action indicates that there would be a serious search and/or examination burden if restriction were not required, it is respectfully submitted that the art searched with respect to the claims of Group II would naturally include art that would also be searched with respect to Group I, because when searching the patentability of claims directed to

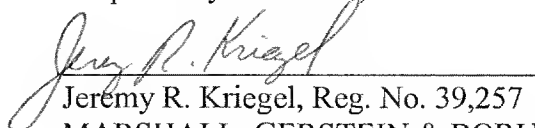
cassette-receiving printers, one would likely search not only art directed to printers, but also art directed to cassettes.

Moreover, various claims of Group II recite not only a printer, but also a combination of a printer (or a printing device) and a cassette (such as Claims 116, 126 and 131). It is respectfully submitted that such combination claims also would naturally require searching of prior art related not only to printers or printing devices, but also to cassettes received in such printers. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that it would not pose a serious burden to examine the claims of Groups I and II in a single application.

While the claims of Group II are hereby withdrawn, in the event the restriction requirement is reconsidered and withdrawn in whole or in part, the Applicant hereby requests reinstatement of such withdrawn claims. In the event the restriction requirement is maintained, the Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the claims of Group II at any time during the pendency of the present application.

Date: June 1, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



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